



# The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church  
January 2023, Milford, NH, Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

## Pastor's Corner

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Siblings in Christ,

There is a hymn in the *United Methodist Hymnal* called "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" by Brian Wren and the first verse reads like this:

This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

As we move into a new year and prepare for whatever new beginnings 2023 may bring, it seems to me that there is something important and true in the lyrics that Wren has written. New beginnings do ask us to put a marker of sorts down on our internal calendars—markers that snip time in two allowing us to separate what's past from what lies ahead, markers that help us to remember from today's vantagepoint, and then also to move on. And what strikes me as particularly insightful as I sing this hymn in my heart today is what the third line says about the way we move on: "time to believe what love is bringing." Wow. The way that hits me as I hear it today, it sounds like the gentle, yet firm, call of God to move forward. It's time—don't you think it's time that you start believing what love is bringing? I mean, really, don't you think it's time? It's time.

Isaiah is the book of the Old Testament that crops up most frequently in the lectionary calendar this time of year, and there is a passage in Isaiah 43:18-19 that speaks powerfully to this sentiment. It reads:

<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things  
or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

The prophet is speaking to a people worn down in exile—a people that, by this time I imagine, could often find themselves utterly distraught and discouraged by long years in servitude and homelessness by the rivers of Babylon and you can just imagine what their weary cried might have

## **Pastor Con't**

sounded like: "When we will ever go home again? When will we be given our new beginning?" This was a people, perhaps, with too many memories—enough to positively drown them in the past and choke out their ability to live hopefully toward the future. It is that sort of drowning in the past that Isaiah speaks to here when he tells them to no longer remember the former things. He's telling them to make a break with the past so they can begin to look for God's new thing.

It's hard to imagine better advice for making a new beginning when the "former things" threaten to drown out our ability to live forward with faith and hope and claim in our own hearts what love is bringing. May this year's new beginning be a time for you to claim what love is bringing! It's time.

God's richest blessings!

*Pastor John*

### **HELP WANTED**

MUMC IS looking for someone to shovel / snow blow the walks at the church. This job requires some early days to get the church cleaned up for services and staff. Contact Callie at the office (603-673-2669) if you are interested.

### **In January Share Is Collecting:**

Canned Ham, Canned Meats, Side Dishes (seasoned pasta mix, hamburger helper, etc.), Ravioli & Beefaroni

Share is taking donations at Columbus Ave. To be sure, call ahead for times, 603-673-9898, and they will direct you.

**SHARE**  
Collection

## **Share Christmas Family From Pat Rafter**

This is a recap on our SHARE Christmas Families for 2022.

We support 2 families this year, one with 3 children and the other with 4. About \$100 was spent on each child. Gifts included, books, clothing, games, coats, boots, shoes, gift cards and toys. All tags were taken from the tree but sadly a few gifts did not get returned to the church by the deadline. Funds were taken from the Outreach Committee to make sure each child received their promised gifts and the delivery was made to SHARE on their collection date. SHARE Inc. does an amazing amount of work each year for individuals/families in need in our community.

I am pleased MUMC is always so supportive of their efforts. Thank you for caring for your community with your generous donations.

## **Salvation Army Recap From Pat Rafter**

I am pleased to announce we had a very successful Salvation Army Bell Ringing Season.

Slots filled up very quickly. Thinking maybe we could add a few slots for next year! Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help. Many thanks to Tom Knapp for all his extra hours and handling the money for deposits. Thanks to Sandi Tuthill who emptied the kettle a couple times each ringing day. We raised \$9318.50. About \$1200 more than last year! Remember 25% of that stays locally. The kettle was out for 60.5 hours and 105.5 volunteers hours manned the kettle. Several of you rang with a partner and Cecil Rowlette had about 13 band members play at Market Basket on Christmas Eve for 1.5 hours in that bitter cold. God Bless Us Everyone!

I would still love to have a co coordinator especially for the first weekend in December. Let me know if you are interested

## Lay Training

Form Callie McMahon

A goal for the Committee on Lay Leadership (AKA Nominations) for 2023 is to do more in the way of training and equipping the laity at MUMC. We will be using the Lay Servant Ministry Basic Course as a way to start this process.

Lay Servant Ministries is one of the most significant lay leadership development programs available within the United Methodist connection. Through this equipping and empowering system, lay servants have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples.

Laity are the primary agents of holy love incarnate in the world. As noted in the UM Discipline: "The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences of the gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ and The United Methodist Church will fulfill its mission" In this sense, lay discipleship is always leadership and leadership is always evangelism—because all who follow Jesus lead others to him. Laity, you and me, are called to be disciples—and disciples lead others to Christ. Discipleship begins with relationship. When we "see all the people" God calls us to love, we discover that engaging relationships with others are more than marching orders for outreach and mission: they are the very source of our own spiritual growth and a means of grace. This might sound daunting, but this course really prepares you to become more comfortable making and sharing in these relationships.

Lay Servant Ministry, the Basic Course, is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. I will be facilitating this course for anyone who is interested, starting January 22, from 3-5:30 p.m., and continuing 1/29-2/13 (home in time for the Super Bowl). Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

The Participants handbook is about \$12.00 and pre-class reading will be chapter 1 –2. The book is available on Amazon for \$11 and I could do a bulk order as long as you sign up for the course by 1/7/2023.

Pre-class activity also includes a Spiritual gifts inventory that is available at [Discipleship Ministries | Spiritual Gifts Inventory \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](https://umcdiscipleship.org)

Sign up by emailing me at [cmcmahon28@comcast.net](mailto:cmcmahon28@comcast.net)

## Marked By Love

Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one's] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back. ...

Love — and the unity it attests to — is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.

—Francis Schaeffer



## Our MUMC Family Out in the World

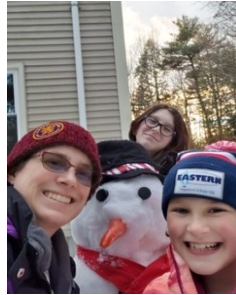
December, as always, was busy and brought the first "shovel able" snow. These families had joy even so.



Josh, Paula & Madison, still running!



Cora & Avery ringing bells for Salvation Army!



Lindsay, Emma, & Haley Lambert, made a snowman!



Two pics from the 2022 craft fair.



3 wise men on an elephant. You know the one praying in front.



A family moment on a typical Advent Sunday. Thanks to all who read. This is the Weis family.

Have you got pics of you and yours sharing the joy? Let's share here. Send to me; at office@milfordumc.org, or friend me on Facebook and share what you're up to.



Christmas Morning

God Bless us Everyone!

MUMC Christmas congregation



The Eves, Kim, Jimi, Lily, & Jameson

## Youth Mission Update

The Youth mission group will have its first 2023 meeting on January 15, 7 p.m., at the church.

There will be a Super bowl sub fundraiser starting the end of January for bowl day, February 13.



2022 giving statement will be prepared in the next month or so. Please remember that in order to be included on the 2022 statement, donations must be dated by December 31, 2022, and received by the financial secretary in the first week of January, 2023.



## Lamplighters

From Carol Rowlette

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me, I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." John 10:27-28

This month we will finish our study of the Parables which we started in May and have had interesting discussions and enlightening thoughts and conclusions. From the Parables we will search out the many miracles of Jesus found in the Gospels.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John have recorded some of the many miracles of the people touched and healed by Jesus.

May God bless each of you this new year of 2023.

Happy New Year!



## Choir Notes:

From Jenn Erdody

We would like to thank all those who performed in our Christmas concert, as well as our wonderful audience, for a fantastic evening of Christmas music! We are so blessed to be able to worship through music!

Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30, and welcomes new members. Speak to Jenn Erdody or any choir member for more information.



## Going Out of Our Way!

In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.

Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: "If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Further, "whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

Paul likewise urged his listeners to voluntarily give up eating meat, even if they didn't believe in and weren't challenged by the idols to which it had been sacrificed, for the sake of new believers with weaker faith (Romans 14).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God's hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and non-humans alike.

## From the Pastor's Book Pile

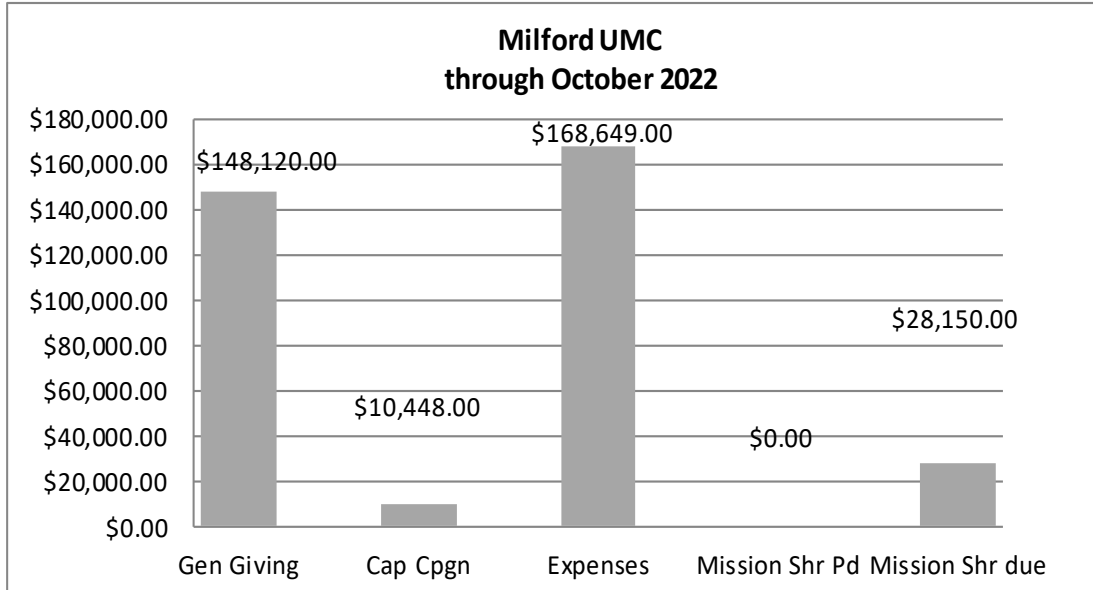
The book that we'll be diving into together as part of the Wednesday night study is as follows:

L. Gregory Jones, *Embodying Forgiveness: A Theological Analysis*.



# Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



## YTD Financials

General Giving	\$148,120 .00
Capital Campaign	\$10, 448.00
Expenses	\$168, 649.00
Mission Shares Paid	\$0.00
Mission Shares Due	\$28,150.00



Finance to be Updated Next Month

- The miracle of giving is that giving makes miracles.  
—Bishop Robert E. Goodrich



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

If you see any of these folks around town, be sure to wish them a happy day!

## Birthdays:

- January 1:** Beverly Gagnon
- January 8:** Don Gutterson
- January 10:** Harry Tong
- January 11:** Callie McMahan
- January 11:** Jimi Eves
- January 13:** Steve Kimner
- January 14:** Anita Merrill
- January 15:** Jillian after
- January 17:** Betty Herlihy
- January 19:** Heidi Rocha
- January 21:** Gerrie Hopkins
- January 21:** Nancy MacKay
- January 26:** Nadia Tlapa
- January 26:** Ryder Tlapa

## Anniversaries

Sorry if we missed your anniversary, Hope it was special!

We would love to include you on the birthday and anniversary list. Won't you share your special dates at [office@milfordumc.org](mailto:office@milfordumc.org).



## This Month's Lectionary

**January 1:** Psalm 80, Malachi 3:1-6a, Mark 1:1-8

**January 8:** Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

**January 15:** Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

**January 22:** Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

**January 29:** Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12



## Driving Ministry

If you are in need of a ride and have no place to turn, call the office and we will notify the driving ministry to help you out.

This program is primarily directed to our handi-capped and seniors, but anybody who needs a ride and can't find one is eligible. There is no charge for this service. Office 603-673-2669 Steve Takacs 603-672-5118 [office@milfordumc.org](mailto:office@milfordumc.org) [trumpetchoo@msn.com](mailto:trumpetchoo@msn.com)



# Committees, Groups and Ministries

If you are interested in becoming involved with, or learning more about, a committee or group on the calendar, here's who to talk to.

**Administrative (Ad) Council: Janet Hromjak**

*Reviews monthly committee meetings, discusses pending issues and votes on church-wide decisions.*

**Adult Mission Trip Steve & Pat Rafter**

**Bell Choir: Heidi Rocha**

*For adults and older kids interested in hand bell ringing.*

**Christian Aftercare Ministry: Callie McMahon**

*Serving primarily men leaving prison, helping them settle in new homes and productive, positive lives.*

**Chancel Choir: Jennifer Erdody**

*Open to adults and teens interested in singing in the Chancel Choir at the second service.*

**Community Supper: Kerri-Lynn Kimner**

*A supper we host at SHARE in Milford every 6-8 weeks. Volunteer to help bake or prep ahead of time, or to work at the supper itself. **Restart Coming Soon***

**Driving Ministry– Steve Takacs**

*Provides transportation for those in need of help.*

**Finance: Andy Baver**

*Oversees church financial commitments*

**Home Groups: Steve Rafter (Thursday) or Callie McMahon (Friday) *hold due to covid***

*Expands spiritual experience in a social context, meeting at a host's homes.*

**Lamplighters: Elaine Driscoll & Carol Rowlette**

*A Bible-study group for women.*

**Nominations: Pastor John. Matches people with the committees they might be interested in serving on.**

**Outreach:**

*Focuses on ways our church can reach out to the local, regional and international community.*

**Children & Family : LeeAnne Steenhoek**

*Focuses on involving Children and Families in church events.*

**Praise Band: Steve Rafter, Lisa Payne, Rudy Rumohr**

*Contemporary Christian music that plays at the first service on Sunday.*

**Staff Parish Relations (SPR): TBD**

*This committee acts as liaison between our staff and the congregation.*

**Stephen Ministry: Callie McMahon**

*Provides confidential one-on-one Christian care with trained lay ministers.*

**Sunday School/ Education Team: Elizabeth Whitley**

*Chooses curriculum, helps prepare teachers, runs the Sunday School from September-June.*

**Trustees: Steve Rafter**

*Oversees and facilitates the care and keeping of the church building and parsonage.*

**White Tops: Everett Gale**

*A social group for retired men of all denominations.*

**Worship Committee: Carol Rowlette**

*Plans and facilitates Sunday service needs and organizes special Sundays*

**Worship Design: Steve Rafter**

*Plans music and worship for the contemporary Sunday service.*

**Vacation Bible School: TBD**

**VOICE** Giving voice to the marginalized in our

*community. Janet Hromjak, Claire Holston, Callie McMahon. Esther Thayer, Kerri-Lynn Kimner*

**Youth Group: Tom Knapp**

*Organizes and hosts Youth Group for middle and high school kids in our congregation. Runs September-May.*

**Youth Mission Trip Tom Knapp**

*Works with the youth and organizes mission work near and far.*





2023

For Virtual Services starting at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, join Us On-Line from our Facebook page Milford United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation or YouTube milfordumc or from the Website milfordumc.org Masks required in the building.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	<b>2</b> 6 SPRC	<b>3</b> 7 Praise Band	<b>4</b> 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	<b>5</b> 7:-Chancel Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> .
<b>8.</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	<b>9</b> 7—Trustee’s	<b>10</b> 7 Praise Band	<b>11</b> 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	<b>12</b> 5:45-6:45 Bell Choir  7:-Chancel Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 7 Youth Mission	<b>16</b> 6 VOICE 7—Finance Committee	<b>17</b> 7 Praise Band	<b>18</b> 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	<b>19</b> 5:45-6:45 Bell Choir  7:-Chancel Choir 7— Ad Council / Mission	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7 Praise Band	<b>25</b> 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	<b>26</b> 5:45-6:45 Bell Choir  7:-Chancel Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Tradi-	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7 Praise Band				

SPRC, Trustees, VOICE, Finance, Ad Council are virtual unless communicated otherwise by the committee chair.



## Milford United Methodist Church

327 No. River Rd  
PO Box 476  
Milford, NH 03055  
(603) 673-2669  
www.milfordumc.org

*January, 2023*

### **Sunday Worship Times:**

8:30 Spirit Celebration, 10:30 Traditional Service  
or Watch Us Online Facebook & YouTube @10:30  
Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

# Milford United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Church*

*Discover the Joy!*

Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

### *Our Mission:*

The Milford United Methodist Church exists to help **all** people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.

### *Our Vision:*

We will help all people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ by:

- Providing joyful and meaningful worship experiences.
- Establishing and encouraging small groups for study, support, prayer, fellowship and service.
- Empowering people to discover, develop, and deploy their gifts for ministry.
- Reaching out beyond our congregation in Christian love and service.

### *Our Values:*

We commit ourselves to:

- Know scripture and live it.
- Act with integrity.
- Be faithful to Jesus Christ, our families, and our church family.

- Strive for excellence in all we do for the Lord.
- Celebrate the ministry of all Christians, lay and ordained.
- Treat all people with respect and sensitivity.
- Encourage people to grow in Christ.
- Care for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of all people.

### *Welcoming & Inclusion Statement:*

Milford United Methodist Church is a welcoming and inclusive church which celebrates that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth. We welcome and serve persons without regard to age, race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, family configuration, religious background, economic status, or developmental and physical abilities. Milford United Methodist Church recognizes the diversity of the Body of Christ and gives thanks to God for this divine gift. We invite ALL to discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.